

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 04295 282300Z

13

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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R 281130Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6729

S E C R E T TEHRAN 4295

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MO, JO, IR

SUBJ: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO MOROCCO

REFS: (A) RABAT 2297, (B) STATE 055551, (C) TEHRAN 2836,

(D) RABAT 1568, (E) STATE 094155

1. REF (E) STIPULATED THAT DEPARTMENT WANTED GOI CONFIRMATION THAT IT HAD CLEAR UNDERSTANDING WITH MOROCCO RE REPLACEMENT OF HOWITZERS. ALTHOUGH MISUNDERSTANDING OR MISTRANSLATION OF MORTARS FOR HOWITZERS HAS BEEN CLEARED UP, THERE IS STILL A BASIC DIFFERENCE AS TO HOW REPLACEMENT GUNS ARE TO BE PROVIDED TO IRAN.

2. REF (B), PARA 1, SETS FORTH TWO ALTERNATIVES:

A. DIVERSION OF HOWITZERS FROM U.S. PRODUCTION LINE FROM MOROCCO TO IRAN.

B. TRANSFER OF HOWITZERS TO IRAN AFTER MOROCCO HAS TAKEN TITLE.

3. IRAN CHOSE FIRST ALTERNATIVE ESSENTIALLY BECAUSE IT WOULD AVOID NEED TO OBTAIN CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION FOR TRANSFER. (REF C).

4. MOROCCO (REF D) STATED IT WOULD DIVERT GUNS TO IRAN "UPON DELIVERY OF HOWITZERS." IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT IRAN DOES NOT WISH TO HANDLE REPLACEMENT ON THIS BASIS.

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5. ACCORDINGLY, WE RECOMMEND THAT EMBASSY RABAT POINT OUT
TO GOM ADVANTAGE OF FOLLOWING COURSE OF ACTION LAID DOWN
IN REF (B), PARA 1A, AS DESIRED BY IRAN. IF GOM AGREES,
INSTRUCTIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR IN
TEHRAN.
HELMS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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